

ARIZONA SENTINEL.

J. W. DORRINGTON, Proprietor.
YUMA, ARIZONA

OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1904.

On the last day of April the U. S. transport Thomas sailed for Manila with \$17,000,000 in silver coin for the Philippines. This is a partial new solution of the silver question.

In Utah's exhibit at the Fair there is a statue of a beautiful woman in beeswax. This dainty female is plump and solid, no framework being used. She is wax through and through, and is a work of art.

It is only a question of time when the old silver dollar of our daddies will be scarce and valuable, since congress has decreed that they be recoined into subsidiary coin. Put away a few in some old stocking.

By some ugly official oversight the governor and the state of Missouri were omitted from the programme at the opening of the St. Louis exposition. It is to be hoped Gov. Francis does not think St. Louis is in Illinois.

A Boston judge has decided that a wealthy man cannot leave all of his property to his second wife, because of her "undue influence" over him. The children by the first wife must have a due portion, however the will is made.

Only three years ago Judge Alton B. Parker wrote: "I have no ambition whatever for political office, whether executive or legislative." He appears to be a philosopher which the result of the next election will not disturb in the least.

If the torpedo prove to be the coming weapon of naval warfare, as some experts anticipate, England and her big fleet may be injured under the fifth rib. It will be remarkable if all the big war ships are to turn turtle and become obsolete.

In the house of representatives there were 206 republicans and 177 democrats. A net change in 15 districts would give the democrats control of the house, provided it was the right kind of a change. But "safe and sane" as the democrats think they are, it cannot be done.

A giant rice trust has been formed in some of the Southern states, to control the cultivation of that cereal and boom the market. Steps have been taken in Texas to fight the unlawful combination. The great trick is to induce Americans to live on a diet of rice after the manner of the Chinese.

No matter what happens, some people are always happy. A clergyman in Bridgeport, Conn., recently said to his congregation that he was glad he was so sorry to leave them. A Philadelphia paper says there is no reason to regret the loss of the surplus in the treasury as it is really a gain.

There was a time when Russia thought that to fight the Japanese would be like snuffing out a candle. Now they announce that the Japs are too alert; that they attack in the night; that their guns have enormous range; and that they have a host of infernal inventions which the rest of the world does not possess.

The New York school board has finally decided that teachers may marry and still continue to teach school. That has long been the custom in Utah. In fact in some Utah households a teacher is so much married that he can furnish an ordinary school district with children without going outside his own herd.

People interested in Wall street speculation are trying to reconcile the retrenchment programmes of a number of big railway concerns with the expansion of business by the United States Steel corporation. Possibly the great fires, notably the one in Baltimore, and the resulting rebuilding of burnt districts, may

THREE MILLION DOLLARS FOR IRRIGATION AT YUMA

Nearly 100,000 Acres of the Most Fertile Lands on Earth to be Irrigated.

A telegram was received in this city yesterday stating that the secretary of the interior had approved the plans of the engineers for the construction of the Laguna dam and irrigation works and had allotted \$3,000,000 for the project.

Confirmatory of the above, the following telegram was printed in the Los Angeles papers of Tuesday morning:

Washington, D. C., May 9. J. B. Lippincott, Supervising Engineer, Los Angeles, Cal.
The secretary of the interior has approved an allotment of \$3,000,000 for the construction of the Yuma project. Present the work as recommended by the board of consulting engineers.
F. H. NEWELL,
Chief Engineer.

The importance of this decision of the secretary is so great as to completely overshadow and dwarf all other events in the history of this town and section. The future results of this great irrigation scheme are so momentous—such changes, such development will follow as now to be inconceivable. The lands to be irrigated lie on both the Arizona and California sides of the Colorado river and approximate 100,000 acres of the most fertile section under the sun; where the climatic conditions permit of an almost limitless range of products and practically a continuous cropping and harvesting the year round. The water supply, coming from the great Colorado river, is inexhaustible.

The Yuma Indian reservation, across the river from Yuma on the California side, is included in the estimate, the last congress having provided for the allotment of the lands and their reclamation under the government act, each Indian to receive five acres, the remainder—about 10,000 acres—to be thrown open to settlers under the homestead law. Presumably, the date of opening will be announced by proclamation of the president.

The only conditions now required before contracts are let for the work are those imposed by the government upon the land owners. There will be no delay from this source, as nine-tenths if not all of the land owners in the district are willing and anxious to comply with the requirements as soon as given an opportunity. On this subject Engineer J. B. Lippincott, in an interview in the Los Angeles Herald, says:

"While this allotment has been provided for by the department of the interior from the reclamation fund, it will be absolutely essential for the owners of private lands that will be supplied under this project to comply with the requirements of the law to the extent of entering into absolute contracts for the acceptance of the conditions of this federal act, similar to the plan that has been followed in the Salt River valley near Phoenix. Each private land owner must enter into such a contract, giving his land as security for the refunding of these monies to the federal government without profit, interest or taxes being charged against the irrigator, in ten annual installments. All holders of land in excess of 160 acres will be absolutely required to dispose of all their excess holdings in order to obtain water under the project.

"These matters must be adjusted by the local land owners through their associations and will not be undertaken by the secretary of the interior. Thus it may be stated that while the engineering portions of the work have been outlined, plans accepted and an allotment of funds made, that it still remains for the local land owners in this vicinity to finally accept the conditions required by the reclamation act of June 17, 1902, sometimes called the national irrigation act.

"These local land owners have organized an association similar to the Salt River Valley Water Users Association and express their intention to comply with all these provisions. If these matters can be satisfactorily arranged construction work on this project probably can be commenced this fall. It will not be advisable to begin this work in midsummer."

The plans approved provide for a dam of rock and cement at Laguna point, 18 miles up the river from Yuma; estimated cost \$900,000. The dam will create a reservoir of water ten miles in length, 20 feet deep, the width of the stream. Complete arrangements are provided for taking care of the silt; only a quantity necessary for fertilizing purposes will be allowed to flow over the irrigated land, the greater part having been first eliminated by means of weirs, settling basins, etc., and by sluicing.

also a levee of considerable length on both sides of the Gila. The height of levees will be five feet above highest flood mark—that of 1891. Course of main canal will be southeasterly, skirting the Laguna mountains, to the Gila river, which will be crossed by tunnelling; thence skirting the edge of the mesa, to Yuma and on to the lower valley. At drop into the valley it is intended to develop 1000 horse power of electricity and establish a pumping station; calculations are at present to raise water to lands ten feet above the average level of river. The lands to be watered by pumping are the Gila lands lying just above the outflow of gravity canal. Laterals will reach every quarter section in the district. The plans also provide for a drainage system to carry off any seepage water that it may be necessary to remove.

The three million dollars, it is estimated, will completely cover the cost of the system, including the levees and pumping plant, and three years work will be required to put it in operation.

There seems no doubt that all arrangements can be perfected between the government and the land owners in time for actual construction to begin on the dam this fall. The impetus that will at once be given to every line of business and industry in this section will be so great as to give it such a boost forward as will be unparalleled by any region in the west in rapid growth and development.

Writing of the Colorado river, and lands tributary, Prof. R. H. Forbes, chief of the government experiment station at Tucson, compares them with the Nile river and valley. He says: "Both (rivers) rise in a mountainous country and flow through sub-tropical regions. Each makes a narrow ribbon of fertile soil. Each has a summer overflow. The products are varied. The Colorado is destined to be a modern Nile. The Colorado is but little used or adapted for traffic, while with the Nile the opposite is true."

In conclusion Professor Forbes states that the climate of the Colorado is near perfection.

BUCK SHOULD BE PARDONED

We are pleased to note the generous recognition by the press of the territory of the heroic action of Convict Buck in saving the life of Superintendent Griffith at the time of the recent attempted break at the prison.

Buck's conduct has but one parallel in the history of the prison—and, indeed, history records no braver or more meritorious deed, and it should receive its just reward—an unconditional pardon from the governor.

The story has been told so frequently in the press that we shall not attempt to repeat it; but we do want to call attention to one or two details which have been omitted from the general press reports.

Buck came into the hall between the dining-room and the inside office just after the convicts had begun their attack. The superintendent saw him and called to him to come to his assistance. Buck immediately ran to the butcher shop, secured a knife, locked the door and came to the rescue. As he did so the guard on the wall fired and Buck received a buckshot in his person. He attempted to fight off without hurting the ruffians, who now, angered by the shooting by the guard, seemed bent upon gaining their liberty or taking the lives of the superintendent and his assistant, Wilder. This was manifested by the fact that he did not at first attempt to use his knife. When, however, they had knocked Wilder down and one was in the act of stabbing the superintendent, Buck threw himself between the superintendent and the threatened peril and began to use his knife. It was at this time that he received his severest wound. He saw the blow coming but could not avoid it without withdrawing protection from the superintendent, so

he grimly stood his ground and received the wound which came near ending his life—an ugly gash under his arm which penetrated into the left lung. By this time the angry mob turned their full attention to him and the superintendent made good the opportunity to escape.

Just why Buck was not killed cannot be explained unless it be from the fact that the ruffians thought they had killed him, as they did in the case of Wilder; and it cannot be denied that they thought they had killed Wilder, for when Secretary Gregory from the wall shouted an order to bring the doctor the leader of the gang replied: "You don't need to bring a doctor; the s— of a— is deader than hell now."

But, thanks to luck, or a kind intervention of Providence—whichever you may be pleased to call it—neither Wilder nor Buck was killed. Wilder has fully recovered from his injuries and Buck will soon be well.

Buck was convicted in June, 1900, at Globe, of the murder of Archie Borques. The evidence was purely circumstantial, and we don't believe anyone can take it and read it through and then say that it is sufficient to satisfy the mind beyond a reasonable doubt of his guilt. It certainly is most unsatisfactory, and we doubt if the jury that convicted him would recognize it as the evidence upon which they returned their verdict of guilty; and we feel sure that the jury were not wholly satisfied, for they fixed the penalty at life imprisonment instead of death. The murder was committed by splitting the victim's head open while he was in bed asleep—a murder so dastardly, so atrocious that its perpetrator should have been hung, and we believe this is the penalty the jury would have assessed had they been fully satisfied.

We find no fault with the jury; we believe they did what they thought right—juries usually do. But the circumstances surrounding the killing were so fiendish that the public prejudice must have been intensely inflamed, and under such circumstances it is no new thing for juries, aye, even communities, to make mistakes; and who will say that no mistake was made in this case?

The grand jury indicted not only Buck, but a man by the name of Riley, also. The case against Riley was never tried. It was dismissed upon an agreement that he would testify against Buck; and even then he failed to throw much light on the subject.

Under the circumstances, and after carefully reading the testimony, we are prone to speculate what the result would have been had Buck's indictment been dismissed and Riley brought to trial; we don't wish to be understood as insinuating Riley's guilt; we know nothing about that, but we do say that it seems that as strong a case could have been made against him as against Buck.

Buck has always borne a good reputation and there are plenty of good men who have known him for years who say that they have known him so long and so well that they feel certain that

he could not have committed so foul a murder. For our part we frankly say that we do not believe that the perpetrator of so cowardly a murder as that of Archie Borques could ever have had the bravery, the courage, or the manhood to do as Buck did when he saved the life of Superintendent Griffith.

Again we say, he should—be pardoned.

Snowbanks, then Rivers of Mud.

The following extract from a western New York paper will tend to make people more willing to endure with patience the dust here—which takes the place of snow banks and "rivers of mud"—there, until they can make rock roads over which they may sail into Yuma with their carriages, automobiles, bicycles and five-ton hay wagons:

"The April term of supreme court opened this morning under somewhat discouraging circumstances. Last winter when the courts were in session traffic was more or less tied up with snow-drifts, which prevented jurors and witnesses from reaching the village. Now the snow is gone, but conditions are as bad as ever on account of bad roads.

"Such roads! A dozen exclamation points coupled with all the adjectives in the dictionary could not adequately describe the soft, sticky rivers of mud which mark the course of every country road leading into Mayville. A few who are compelled to traverse the country highways walk if they are in a hurry and drive if they have plenty of time."

Probably the first man to receive a reward from the Carnegie "hero fund" will be Captain William Clarke of the New York fire department, who rescued a mad man from the ledge of the fifth-story windows of a New York hospital the other day. It was a daring feat, and for a time both the patient and his rescuer were in imminent danger of falling to the pavement below.

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THOS. D. MOLLOY, Manager and Secretary.

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HAVE YOU BEEN

through my stock lately? Have you noticed the class of merchandise that is being received daily in the different departments? Do you know that when you send away for things before looking for them at my store that you are

MAKING A MISTAKE?

If you have no idea of the size and quality of my dry goods stock you had better drop in and go through my Dress Goods, Notions, Clothing, Furnishing Goods, Shoe, Hat and Millinery departments, and you will be pleasantly surprised.

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